

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1        1. A friction clutch, comprising:
  - 2              a housing arrangement having an axis of rotation; and
  - 3              an intermediate plate arrangement coupled to said housing arrangement
  - 4              for joint rotation therewith about the axis of rotation, and arrangeable for transmitting a
  - 5              pressure force between two frictional output members, said intermediate plate
  - 6              arrangement including two intermediate plate elements with an elastic prestressing
  - 7              arrangement arranged therebetween, said intermediate plate elements being axially
  - 8              displaceable with respect to one another counter to the action of said elastic
  - 9              prestressing arrangement.
- 1        2. The friction clutch of claim 1, wherein at least one of said
- 2              intermediate plate elements comprises, on a side facing the other of said intermediate
- 3              plate elements, a recess for at least a partial reception of said prestressing
- 4              arrangement.
- 1        3. The friction clutch of claim 2, wherein said recess comprises an
- 2              annular depression.
- 1        4. The friction clutch of claim 1, wherein said intermediate plate
- 2              elements are held apart in a state of maximum axial extent, counter to a prestressing
- 3              action of said prestressing arrangement, by restraining members.

1               5.     The friction clutch of claim 4, wherein said restraining members  
2 comprise one of clinched bolts and screw bolts.

1               6.     The friction clutch of claim 1, wherein said prestressing  
2 arrangement comprises at least one spring element.

1               7.     The friction clutch of claim 6, wherein said at least one spring  
2 element comprises one of a cup spring, a corrugated spring, an elastomeric element or  
3 a helical coil spring.

1               8.     The friction clutch of claim 1, wherein at least one of said  
2 intermediate plate elements includes one of a frictional surface or a frictional lining  
3 element providing a frictional surface.

1               9.     An intermediate plate arrangement for a friction clutch, the  
2 intermediate plate arrangement comprising two intermediate plate elements and an  
3 elastic prestressing arrangement arranged therebetween, said two intermediate plates  
4 being displaceable with respect to one another counter to a force exerted by said elastic  
5 prestressing arrangement.